

## **Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee**

**Thursday, September 10, 2009**

Chair Paulson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Present:** Supervisors Duane Paulson (Chair), Jim Jeskewitz, Bill Zaborowski, Janel Brandtjen, Gilbert Yerke, and Pauline Jaske. Kathleen Cummings arrived at 1:05 p.m.

**Also Present:** Legislative Policy Advisor Ann Olson, Citizen Ron Malloy, Citizen Andrew Gerbitz, Citizen Beata Gerbitz, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Health & Human Services Board Chair Dennis Farrell, Economic Support Services Coordinator Luann Page, Intake & Support Services Manager Antwayne Robertson, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels, Public Works Interim Director Allison Bussler, Architectural Services Manager Dennis Cerreta, Veterans Services Director Tom Ludka, Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Director Cathy Bellovary, Nutrition Services Supervisor Mary Smith, and Senior Financial Analyst Steve Krafcheck.

### **Public Comment**

Malloy of New Berlin represents a grass roots organization advocating for the developmentally disabled. He said there is an urgent need to eliminate Section 8 voucher waiting lists for adequate housing in Waukesha. New and creative ways to address housing for disabled citizens need to be explored to maximize values for both taxpayers and consumers. A. Gerbitz, who has Downs Syndrome, advised there are no apartments available near his place of employment and the current waiting list with the Housing Authority is about two years. His aging parents will not be able to drive him much longer.

Cummings arrived at 1:05 p.m.

Malloy went on to speak about a lack of resources by non-profit organizations. He asked when the Waukesha County Five-Year Planning Committee focus groups will hold meetings to discuss this issue. He wanted to know how many incremental home ownership and rental vouchers Waukesha County will apply for to address the 1,059 disabled citizens on the waiting list. He also asked if Waukesha County plans to build new integrated affordable housing units in areas like Pabst Farms and the New Berlin City Center where there is safe walking access to services and jobs. A copy of Malloy's speech was given to the Chair and will be placed on file.

### **Approve Minutes of 8-13-09**

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Brandtjen to approve the minutes of August 13. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Executive Committee Report of 8-17-09**

Paulson advised of the following issues discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting.

- Heard updates on the Waukesha County Economic Development Corporation's 2009 economic strategies, Federated Library and UW-Extension programs and budgets, the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin, and the Planning and Policy Advisory Committee.
- Approved the two appointments that were included in the last yellow packet.
- Discussed coordination by the Parks and Land Use and Public Works departments.

### **Announcements**

Paulson announced the Health & Human Services Committee's budget review meetings of October 1 and 2 will begin at 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., respectively. Both meetings will be held at the Human Services Center.

Brandtjen distributed information on the United Way Chopper Bicycle Race on September 22 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Human Services parking lot. County staff including County Board Supervisors are encouraged to participate and form their own teams.

Paulson referred to recent newspaper articles in which the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs is requesting an audit of the agency's finances and operations. Also, Wisconsin will be awarded \$50 million to improve Badger Care over the next five years.

Paulson advised the ADRC will hold a picnic from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on September 25 at Fox Brook Park to celebrate National Adult Day Center Services Week.

Jeskewitz said he received a flyer in his home mailbox about the Swine Flu and concerns with some of the chemicals in the vaccine. It stated there is a law which strips Americans of the right to a jury trial if harmed by experimental drugs or vaccine. The flyer listed [pandemicfluonline.com](http://pandemicfluonline.com) and [nvc.org](http://nvc.org), among others. They cautioned children, pregnant women, and the elderly about receiving Swine Flu vaccinations.

### **Schedule Next Meeting Dates**

- September 24 (combined with the Health & Human Services Board)

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Discuss Section 8 Voucher Waiting Lists (Yerke)
- Discuss Funding Changes for Specialized Transportation and the ADRC (Yerke)
- Tour the Free Clinic at Community Memorial Hospital in Menomonee Falls (Brandtjen)
- Update by Waukesha Housing Authority Executive Director Dave Cappon on Housing Authority Activities (Cummings)

### **Discuss Economic Support Fraud and Review Impact of Eliminated Fraud Investigator Position on Caseload**

Schuler, Maurer, Robertson, and Page were present to discuss this issue. Staff distributed copies of flow charts for the child care application process/denial process and the fraud process, rebuttals to quotes in recent newspaper articles on Wisconsin Shares fraud, and correspondence pertaining to Wisconsin Shares reviews. Page explained the two processes as outlined in the flow charts.

There are two types of fraud: recipient and provider. Page said if it is determined that a provider is fraudulent, that information is submitted to the State because they do the licensing. The County's involvement basically ends at this point. A referral for recipient fraud is immediately put into the state system indicating a fraud investigation is underway. The Sheriff's Department may also become involved and if the fraud is substantial, the case could be referred to the District Attorney's Office for possible prosecution. Economic Assistance will seek reimbursement for overpayments and sanctions may be imposed including temporary and permanent disqualification. Maurer noted District Attorney Schimel, if he was present today, would probably say because staff is so tight,

which is the case statewide, they have to be very careful about which cases they choose to expend time prosecuting. Our District Attorney's Office has prosecuted cases although sometimes repayment plans are agreed upon.

Maurer said the records clerk referred to in the newspaper article had done her job the best she could. She is a very conscientious worker who followed all policies correctly and made a correct determination based on the tools she had. Page added she is also the worker who eventually determined that the person referred to in the newspaper article was not being honest. Part of the reason for the mix-up had to do with the State's SACWIS (computer) system and this should be addressed. However, new protocols and guidelines have been put in place at the County level to ensure future record checks reveal all past history.

Page indicated until 2004, there had been two fraud specialist positions but now there is one. Between 2004 and 2008, referrals to the District Attorney's Office had dropped quite a bit. In 2004 there were 11 and in 2008 there were 2. On the other hand, our Fraud Specialist has kept up well. She regularly has referrals pending and is quite busy. Between 2006 and 2008, the fraud specialist referred nine cases to the District Attorney's Office. To answer Paulson's question, Page did not know how many actually went to trial. Maurer said less than 0.5% of their clients commit recipient fraud. In spite of drastic State funding cutbacks in the area of fraud detection, the County had reallocated funding so we could keep the existing fraud specialist position. Schuler noted this program has expanded so quickly (due to the economy) and has changed so dramatically, he questioned why the State would continue to cut funding for preventing fraud.

A recent audit review by the State revealed zero errors were made on cases by Waukesha County economic support staff.

#### **Update on the Health & Human Services Building Capital Project, #200615**

Bussler and Cerreta were present to discuss this issue which included a Power Point presentation. The work involves design and construction of a new building to house the Department of Health & Human Services, Veterans Services, and the ADRC. The new building will also house Public Health, and possibly records storage which is currently at Northview. The cost, including 2010 budget and concept, 2011 design, and 2012 to 2014 construction, totals about \$36,680,000. Bussler noted this is a rough estimate and updated figures will be available next year. The current Human Services building, once empty, could be used as temporary office space for about 18 months during the courts project. The plan for additional space allocation at the new Human Services building includes 10 years of estimated future need. Cerreta said proposals are due back in October and the contract will be signed in January. He indicated a portion of the current building will remain intact as directed by the State Historical Society. This portion will be used for some type of programming, to be determined later, and the remaining portion will eventually be razed.

#### **Resolution 164-R-006: Support For Merging The Aging And Disability Resource Center, Health And Human Services, And Veterans Services Departments**

MOTION: Jaske moved, second by Jeskewitz to approve Resolution 164-R-006.

Paulson relinquished the duties of the chair to Vice Chair Jeskewitz.

Schuler said this resolution is the result of a directive by County Executive Vrakas in last year's budget to have the three departments work together and outline areas of coordination, cooperation,

and future planning. He noted the three departments have historically worked together in various areas. Copies of the Health & Human Services organizational chart, as proposed by this resolution, were distributed and explained as outlined.

Brandtjen asked if there are any concerns for the merger by veterans and veteran organizations. Ludka said it is his perception that as long as services are not interrupted, they are supportive of the merger and he anticipates the merger will be seamless. He added that this merger is not unique and it does not conflict with any State Statutes. To answer Cummings' question, Schuler said the Veterans' Services budget will remain and have its own budget target just like it does now. Paulson advised he had suggested a two-year trial due to concerns he had for Veterans Services but was told this would not be possible. He noted the County Board will have to be diligent as to what transpires in that office. The demand for veterans' services will only increase so it is important the level of services does not decline. He advised he would support the resolution, albeit reluctantly, due to support by others including former Veterans Services Director John Margowski.

Yerke asked what the primary reason for the merger is. Olson replied that staff will be able to help each other and so the merger will help with staff efficiencies. Schuler added that over time, they will become more efficient and share services which will allow them to sustain services longer without adding staff. Yerke felt the word "merger" was misleading since they are not really merging but will be under the same umbrella. Maurer and Olson explained the reason for the wording and why it is being referred to as a merger. It was noted that both the ADRC Director and the Veterans Services Director will report to the Health & Human Services Director and no longer to the County Executive. After further discussion, the following motion was made.

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Jaske to amend the resolution starting on line 50 to read "...that it supports placing the Aging and Disability Resource Center and the Veterans' Services Department under the Health & Human Services Department to further integrate and streamline services..." Motion carried 7-0.

The original motion to approve the resolution carried 6-1 as amended. Cummings voted no.

**Ordinance 164-O-043: Modify The ADRC Nutrition Fund 2009 Budget To Accept American Recovery And Reinvestment Act Stimulus Funding Allocation For The Nutrition Program**

Bellovary and Smith discussed this ordinance as outlined which involves accepting \$61,172 in federal stimulus funds: \$33,737 for the congregate meals program and \$27,435 for the home delivered meals program. Some of the funds will be used to purchase shelf-stable meals for emergency purposes and some will be carried over to be used in 2010 for these two programs.

MOTION: Brandtjen moved, second by to approve Ordinance 164-O-043. Motion carried 7-0.

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Cummings to adjourn at 3:45 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

Kathleen M. Cummings  
Secretary